

John Wasson Foster

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NOTABLE DEATHS

JOHN WASSON FOSTER was born in Cass Township, Guthrie County, Iowa, February 26, 1857, and died in a hospital in Des Moines May 20, 1935. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Guthrie Center. His parents were James W. and Louisa A. Foster. When less than a year old he was stricken with infantile paralysis which prevented him from walking except with crutches. He attended country public school, became a teacher early in his life, attended State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames, and was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1879, having largely earned his own way when attending those institutions. The fall of 1879 he was elected auditor of Guthrie County and was twice re-elected, serving six years. In 1886 he entered the practice of law in Guthrie Center in partnership with James H. Applegate as Applegate & Foster, and the partnership continued until near the time Mr. Applegate went on the district bench, which was in 1891. In 1886 he purchased a set of abstracts of titles to real estate records, which with real estate loans added greatly to his business. In 1895 he entered the banking business and during the following thirty years became president of the First National Bank of Guthrie Center, and owned a controlling interest in it and in banks in several nearby towns, Stuart, Monteith, and at one time in Bagley and Yale. He also owned a farm of 1,240 acres near Guthrie Center and was extensively interested in livestock. During these busy years he had time to do his duty as a public citizen, aiding in enterprises for the good of the community. He with a few others were instrumental in organizing the River to River Road, the first attempt at an improved automobile road across Iowa. On August 17, 1915, Governor Clarke appointed D. W. Norris, J. W. Foster, J. C. Davis, C. E. Cameron, J. M. Brockway, E. T. Meredith, and E. F. Rose as a Better Roads Commission to investigate road building in Iowa and other states and make report. Their work and report led the way to Iowa's present Highway Commission and system of improved roads. In 1914 Mr. Foster was elected senator to fill the unexpired term of Senator A. M. McColl who had been appointed a member of the Board of Control, and then he was re-elected in 1916 and served in the Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth general assemblies, and was chairman of the Committee on Banks in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth. When the financial crises came in the late 1920's he gradually closed out his banking and farming interests and by 1930 retired, his personal fortune going to liquidate depositors' accounts. In July, 1929, on organization of the newly created Board of Assessment and Review, Governor Hammill appointed him a member of it for a term of four years, or until June 30, 1933. On that date Louis H. Cook, whose term was to run until July, 1935, resigned, and on July 1, 1933, Governor Herring appointed Mr. Foster to the vacancy, and he was holding that position at the time of his death. His work was regarded as highly valuable to

that important department in its formative period. Mr. Foster, working all his life under physical handicaps, showed wonderful courage and perseverance. Courteous and industrious, capable and resourceful, his greatest equipment was his integrity and character. He was an honor to his community as a business man and an example of high and devoted purpose as a servant of the state.

HERMAN KNAPP was born in Poultney, Rutland County, Vermont, December 28, 1863, and died in Ames, Iowa, March 22, 1935. Interment was in the State College burying grounds. He was brought by his parents, Seaman A. and Maria E. (Hotchkiss) Knapp, in their removal to Vinton, Iowa, in 1867. He received his preparatory education at Tilford Academy, Vinton, and entered Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames as a freshman in 1880 and received the degree of B. S. A. in 1883. The same year he became deputy treasurer of the college. In 1884 he was secretary to the president, in 1885 was assistant professor of agriculture, and in 1886 was placed in charge of the department of agriculture of the college. In 1887 he became treasurer and registrar. He was acting president of the college during absences of President Raymond A. Pearson between 1920 and 1926, and from the time of Dr. Pearson's resignation in 1926 until the appointment of Raymond M. Hughes in 1927. He was then made vice president. He was captain of the college cadet corps as early as 1883. During the Spanish-American War he had charge of all cadet corps recitations and drills in the absence of General James Rush Lincoln. Professor Knapp was in military service in the Iowa National Guard as well as with the cadet corps at the college. In 1905 he became captain of Company C, Fifty-fifth Regiment, the company having quarters in the Armory at the college. In 1909 he was promoted to major and appointed adjutant general of the First Brigade, and was honorably discharged December 31, 1913. He was a member of the Ames School Board from 1903 to 1906, and was also a member of the Ames Library Board. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and served as president of the State Society in 1903. In 1928 he was awarded the honorary degree of LL. D. by the State University of Iowa. His unbroken and efficient service of a full half century as instructor and administrator of his alma mater caused his friends to give a dinner in his honor in the hall of the Memorial Union November 19, 1933, which was attended by about 300, most of whom were alumni of the college.

JOHN W. REYNOLDS was born in Sunderland, Durham County, England, August 6, 1857, and died in Albia, Iowa, May 6, 1935. Burial was in Oak View Cemetery, Albia. His parents were John and Mary Ellen Reynolds. He began working in coal mines when nine years old and was engaged in coal mining all his life. His education was got in night schools in England and in this country, and in private study. He emigrated to the United States in 1879, locating first in Plymouth, Penn-

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